

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

Date: March 22, 2020

Title: "More Powerful Than Prison Bars"

Text: Acts 12:1-24

INTRODUCTION: Acts 12:1-24 offers three wonderful assurances to encourage us in the difficult days of life (see 1 Peter 3:12).

**GOD \_\_\_\_\_ OUR \_\_\_\_\_** (12:1-5a)

"The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous."

1. The martyrdom of James (vv. 1-2)
2. The imprisonment of Peter (vv. 3-4)
3. The bleakness of the situation
  - God is \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_
  - God is up to \_\_\_\_\_
  - God is up to something \_\_\_\_\_

**GOD \_\_\_\_\_ OUR \_\_\_\_\_** (12:5b-17)

"And his ears are attentive to their prayer."

1. Miraculous Intervention (vv. 6-11)
2. Natural Reactions (vv. 12-17)

**GOD \_\_\_\_\_ WITH OUR \_\_\_\_\_** (12:18-25)

"But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

1. The death of the guards
2. The death of Herod Agrippa II

**SO WHAT?**

1. We're all faced with a series of great \_\_\_\_\_ .  
brilliantly disguised as \_\_\_\_\_ situations.
2. Never underestimate the power of a \_\_\_\_\_ church.  
"The angel fetched Peter out of prison, but it was prayer that fetched the angel"

## How to navigate these uncertain times?

### **PRAY, FIRST**

- 1) Pray for your Leadership Team at MMBC (Pastors & Deacons) as we navigate through the unknown, uncharted days ahead.
- 2) Pray for President D. Trump and Governor E. Holcomb as they too are working diligently and navigating us thru COVID-19.
- 3) Read your Bible more . . . Spend time in prayer more.
- 4) Ask God, in His mercy, to stop this pandemic and save lives.
- 5) Pray for our medical care providers as they toil to care for the sick and find a vaccine.
- 6) Pray for business owners who are trying to survive, and for those losing jobs and wages.
- 7) Pray that people will see the fragileness of life and come to Jesus as Savior and Lord.
- 8) Pray for 1) open doors; 2) open mouths; and 3) open hearts to share the good news (the gospel).

### **SECOND, SHEPHERD PEOPLE**

- 1) Practice social distancing without being distant. Check on your friends and neighbors.
- 2) Reach out in safe ways to encourage the down-hearted and care for the hurting.
- 3) Remember, the virus cannot be spread over the phone or internet. Connect in these ways.
- 4) Listen, remind others of God's perspective, His love & grace. Point them to Jesus and to faith in Christ alone as Savior.